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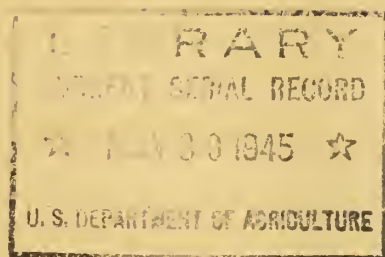
Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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LATE FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS . . .

BRITISH THEORY THAT SUGAR ADDITION IMPROVES SPRAY-DRIED EGGS

The addition of sugars to egg pulp before spray-drying has been found to improve the storage, reconstituting, and baking qualities of the dried product, according to recent experiments at the British Government Research Station at Cambridge, England. Marked success was attained in adding 13.5 percent cane sugar to the egg pulp, it was stated. The new product has superior aerating or beating properties, which is of importance for baking use. The product, quite free and nonsticky, is hardly distinguishable from normal spray-dried egg, other than that the appearance is more attractive. When reconstituted it dissolves easily and quickly in water.

INDIA'S WHEAT PRODUCTION

Trade sources place the 1944 wheat crop in India at 364 million bushels, or a reduction of about 23 million bushels compared with the latest official estimate of 387 million bushels. At that level the crop would be 46 million bushels smaller than the record production in 1943, and also below the average of the past 5 years.

ARGENTINE SEEDING CONDITIONS FAVORABLE

Conditions continue to be excellent for sowing wheat in Argentina, according to recent reports. Both weather and soil conditions are said to be favorable for seeding.

DROUGHT DELAYS RICE PLANTING IN CUBA

A prolonged drought in Cuba delayed rice planting during May, and on June 1 rice planters were confronted with a serious situation. If seasonal rains do not appear before June 20, acreage will not be so large as that of last year, and yield per acre may again be low.

UNITED STATES AND SWEDISH BUYERS ACTIVE IN ARGENTINE WOOL MARKET

American buying of Argentine wools of all classes was fairly active during the 2 weeks ended June 2. Prices of fine wool advanced in response to Swedish buying of fine scoured wools for prompt delivery. Coarse-wool prices showed a weakening tendency. Commercial stocks of wool of all types on May 1 totaled 329 million pounds and were 36 percent larger than on the same date a year earlier.

URUGUAY HAS LARGE STOCKS OF SOLD WOOL AWAITING SHIPMENT TO UNITED STATES

The Uruguayan wool market continued inactive owing to large amounts of wool already sold to the United States and awaiting shipment, according to cabled reports. No exports to the United States were reported from the last week in March until the first week in June.

GRAIN AND GRAIN PRODUCTS . . .

Gordon P. Soals, in charge

NEW ZEALAND REPORTS REDUCED GRAIN CROPS

The grain crop harvested in New Zealand during January-March this year was considerably smaller than the 1943 harvest, though not much below the average of the past 10 years, according to information received recently. Official estimates show a decrease of from 22 to 25 percent in the wheat and oat outturns, compared with the preceding year. The production of barley, however, shows very little change from the 1943 figure.

The reduced wheat and oat crops were attributed to decreased yields per acre in addition to smaller seedings. Unfavorable weather during the season was reported to have reduced both acreage and yields of grain. The shortage of fertilizer was also a factor in the reduced yields. While the barley yields were below those of 1943 and below average, the acreage showed a slight increase, compared with the 1942-43 area

Spring wheat sowing, mainly in the North Island and Otago and Southland in the South Island, was reported to be reduced somewhat, as a result of cold, wet conditions at seeding time. Some wheat land was reported sown to barley and oats. Unfavorable weather was expected to result in poorer quality as well as smaller yields of fall-sown grain. The districts reported most seriously affected were around Canterbury.

The reduced wheat crop places the country's supply considerably below increased needs. Apparent consumption averaged around 11.5 million bushels during 1942-43, compared with an estimated 9.0 million bushels in the pre-war period. Imports averaged around 2.4 million bushels in 1942 and 1943 when production was considerably larger than in the current season.

NEW ZEALAND: Grain acreage and production, 1933-34 to 1943-44

Crop Year	Wheat		Oats		Barley	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	bushels	acres	bushels	acres	bushels
1933-34	286	9,036	78	4,053	21	761
1935-35	225	5,933	53	2,363	18	505
1935-36	249	8,859	78	4,128	21	776
1936-37	222	7,169	75	4,407	21	778
1937-38	186	6,043	58	3,301	25	1,131
1938-39	189	5,564	54	3,256	27	1,122
1939-40	258	8,010	50	2,601	25	954
1940-41	243	8,306	72	3,894	32	1,111
1941-42	258	8,671	71	4,306	36	1,351
1942-43	287	9,820	56	3,511	29	1,100
Average	240	7,741	64	3,582	26	959
1943-44 a/	246	7,700	50	2,625	33	1,120

From official sources. a/ Preliminary.

GRAIN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE IN PRAIRIE PROVINCES OF CANADA

Mid-June prospects for grain crops in western Canada are generally favorable, according to recent information from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The present prospects are in marked contrast to the outlook at the beginning of May, as the result of good rains received at timely intervals since late April. Drought conditions throughout most of April combined with above average temperatures made the outlook unpromising at the beginning of the seeding period, though conditions favored early sowing.

Moisture supplies in mid-June were said to be ample in most parts of the Prairie Provinces and were even excessive in a few districts. Wheat seeding was virtually completed at that time and sowing of coarse grain was also nearing completion. Increases in wheat acreage are reported from most areas with a sharp reduction in the flaxseed acreage and in summer-fallow. No material change in the oats and barley acreage is indicated by the reports received.

All parts of Manitoba appear well supplied with moisture, with an excess in the Red River Valley where some loss from flooding has been reported. Crop prospects are said to be excellent with both wheat and coarse grains progressing favorably. Weeds, however, appear to have made some reseedling necessary in scattered sections of the Province.

The general outlook is also reported to be excellent in Saskatchewan, with rainfall since April 1 well above normal except in the southwestern part of the Province where moisture continues to be deficient. Severe insect damage, however, is reported in parts of Saskatchewan. Grasshoppers are numerous in some sections and control measures are now necessary. Wireworms and cutworms are reported to be thinning out grain crops on summer-fallow in some areas.

In Alberta, crops show good growth where rainfall conditions are satisfactory, but there are still moisture deficient areas in the southern and eastern parts of the Province. Grasshoppers, which are reported to be hatching in the foothills, are considered a menace in certain sections, and some cutworm damage is also reported.

CORN PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

The European-grown corn crop in Southern Rhodesia, harvested in April-May, is estimated at around 5.7 million bushels, or about the same as in 1943. The native-grown crop, for which estimates are not available, is also expected to be large as the result of favorable rainfall this season. The corn acreage for the current crop was somewhat smaller than the 282,000 acres reported last year, but increased per-acre yields compensated for the reduced area.

Strict corn rationing became necessary in early 1942 following the poor harvest of 1941 and the poor prospects for the 1942 crop, despite some imports. Last year's production of 5.7 million bushels, however, was said to be sufficient to allow relaxation of restrictions, and after filling domestic requirements, some excess was exported to neighboring territories.

ESTIMATE FOR CHINESE RICE CROP REVISED

According to a preliminary estimate from the National Agricultural Research Bureau, Chungking, the 1943 rice crop in Free China amounted to 1,679 million bushels, which was a 2-percent increase over the final estimate of 1,647 million bushels produced in 1942, but was a decline of 15 percent from the average of the pre-war period, 1931-1937. Acreage in 1943 was lower than that of the previous year. The area sown was reported at 34,797,000 acres compared with the final estimate of 35,565,000 in 1942. The rice area in Free China comprises about 75 percent of pre-war China.

Rice production in Free China is reported to be sufficient for domestic requirements. Famine conditions were severe in some areas, such as Kwangtung, however, late in 1943 because facilities were inadequate to transport rice from Provinces having a surplus.

CHINA: Rice acreage and production, by Provinces,
average 1931-1937, annual 1942 and 1943

Average 1931-1937, Annual 1942 and 1943									
PROVINCE	ACREAGE				PRODUCTION				
	22	15, Interior Provinces			22	15 Interior Provinces			
	Provinces: 1931-1937:				Provinces: 1931-1937:				
	1931-1937: average		1942	1943	1931-1937: average		1942	1943	
	average	<u>a/</u>	<u>b/</u>	<u>b/</u>	average	<u>a/</u>	<u>b/</u>	<u>b/</u>	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	
Chahar . . .	40:	-	-	-	321:	-	-	-	
Shansi . . .	22:	-	-	-	269:	-	-	-	
Hopei . . .	272:	-	-	-	7,941:	-	-	-	
Shantung . .	55:	-	-	-	955:	-	-	-	
Kiangsu. . .	4,450:	-	-	-	241,162:	-	-	-	
Anhwei . . .	2,772:	-	-	-	116,155:	-	-	-	
Ningsia . . .	24:	24:	25:	25:	367:	367:	436:	448	
Kansu . . .	14:	14:	15:	15:	355:	355:	377:	485	
Shensi . . .	228:	228:	164:	165:	9,130:	9,130:	6,246:	6,680	
Honan . . .	427:	392:	504:	499:	15,317:	14,210:	16,995:	17,272	
Hupei . . .	4,245:	2,759:	2,001:	2,032:	188,510:	122,490:	84,622:	93,718	
Szechwan . .	6,677:	6,677:	5,302:	5,120:	376,737:	376,737:	292,999:	248,500	
Yunnan . . .	1,824:	1,824:	1,764:	1,690:	85,688:	85,688:	86,357:	71,507	
Kweichow . .	1,474:	1,474:	1,335:	1,282:	62,528:	62,528:	66,579:	56,335	
Hunan . . .	4,441:	4,441:	4,632:	4,559:	254,492:	254,492:	294,520:	258,509	
Kiangsi. . .	3,683:	3,683:	4,228:	4,169:	180,295:	180,295:	213,934:	195,190	
Chekiang . .	4,396:	2,689:	2,616:	2,575:	219,914:	134,630:	131,576:	122,534	
Fukien . . .	2,083:	2,083:	2,327:	2,199:	115,224:	115,224:	129,471:	108,106	
Kwangtung.:	7,899:	7,899:	6,992:	6,805:	400,852:	400,852:	370,265:	355,039	
Kwangsi. . .	3,828:	3,828:	3,702:	3,662:	175,998:	175,998:	175,055:	145,014	
			<u>c/</u>				<u>c/</u>		
Total	48,854:	38,015:	35,607:	34,797:	2,452,710:	1,932,996:	1,869,432:	1,679,337	

Compiled from official sources. a/ Adjusted to interior Provinces unoccupied as in 1939-1941. b/ Preliminary estimates. c/ Total acreage and production for 1942 were revised in the final estimate to 35,565,000 acres and 1,648,515,000 bushels.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS . . .

Fred J. Rossiter, in charge

CEYLON COPRA INDUSTRY HANDICAPPED BY LABOR SHORTAGE

Production of copra in Ceylon may not exceed 220,000 long tons in 1944 as compared with about 265,000 tons in 1943. Weather conditions during the first 3 months of 1944 were favorable, and the production of coconuts is expected to equal that for 1943. The reduced estimate for copra production is attributed to a current labor shortage and the increased consumption of fresh coconuts for food. Coconut-oil production in 1944, previously forecast at 90,000 long tons, is not expected to exceed 80,000 tons, or 4,500 tons less than that produced in 1943. It now appears that the new storage tanks and pipelines planned for installation about the middle of 1944 will not be ready for operation until early in 1945. The lack of an adequate force of skilled labor for cleaning ships' tanks also has caused considerable delay in loading and clearance of outgoing ships with bulk cargoes of coconut oil.

Consumption of coconuts for food is expected to equal or exceed that of 1943, when it amounted to about 40 percent of total production, or roughly 800 million nuts. In addition, about 40 percent of the coconut oil extracted is being consumed locally as cooking oils and in soap manufacture.

The fixed price for copra remains at 59 rupees per candy of 560 pounds (3.17 cents per pound). The price of coconut oil (white), fixed at 425 rupees per long ton (5.72 cents per pound) throughout 1943, has been raised to 438.33 rupees (5.89 cents) in recent months. The income of producers has been further increased since April 1, 1944, through the distribution of refunds received from the Government of India on copra and coconut oil shipped to that country prior to April 1, 1944. These refunds, totaling 3,787,170 rupees (\$1,141,000), represent a part of the profits realized by the Government of India on copra and coconut oil imported from Ceylon at fixed prices and sold to dealers in India at market prices.

The India Government has also agreed to refund 50 rupees per long ton (\$13.45 per short ton) of copra and 100 rupees (\$26.89) for coconut oil shipped to Bombay and 120 rupees (\$32.27) for coconut oil shipped to Calcutta during the year beginning April 1, 1944. This sum, estimated at 3,707,200 rupees (\$1,117,000), and the one mentioned above will be distributed in the form of a bonus for all copra and coconut oil delivered to the Government regardless of the ultimate destination. The prices received by producers will thus be increased, beginning April 1, 1944, by 8 rupees per candy (0.43 cent per pound) for copra and 52 rupees per long ton (0.70 cent per pound) for coconut oil. The cost to the purchaser, however, remains unchanged.

Exports of copra during January-March 1944 were only 23 percent of those for the same period in 1943. Coconut-oil exports increased by 30 percent. Exports of dessicated coconut, although relatively small, increased during this period to more than 8 times the corresponding total for 1943. Efforts are being made to discourage exports of this luxury item in order to divert copra to more essential uses. The copra and coconut oil available for export in 1944 may be less than in 1943, although the reduction for January-March is due in part to the withholding of copra by producers in anticipation of the price premiums offered after April 1, 1944.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS . . .

A. W. Palmer, in charge

COTTON CROP SMALL IN UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The 1942-43 cotton crop in the Union of South Africa was equivalent to about 700 bales of 478 pounds. This was 10 bales less than the preceding year's crop but only about 80 bales more than that of 1938-39, which was the smallest in more than 20 years. Larger crops were planned for the past two seasons, but unfavorable weather at planting time caused acreages to be decreased and the crops to get a late start. As a result, yields averaged lower than normal. The largest crop ever produced was 17,060 bales in 1925-26, but this was directly followed by several only about half as large. During the 6 years beginning with 1931-32 production averaged 2,150 bales, or less than half of annual consumption.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Cotton production, 1922-23 to 1942-43
(In terms of bales of 478 pounds)

YEAR	PRODUCTION	YEAR	PRODUCTION	YEAR	PRODUCTION
	Bales		Bales		Bales
1922-23	5,460	1929-30	13,570	1936-37	2,840
1923-24	7,300	1930-31	6,800	1937-38	950
1924-25	14,170	1931-32	2,340	1938-39	620
1925-26	17,060	1932-33	1,560	1939-40	1,720
1926-27	8,570	1933-34	2,040	1940-41	1,550
1927-28	9,220	1934-35	2,480	1941-42	710
1928-29	8,180	1935-36	1,660	1942-43	700

Compiled from official sources.

Most of the cotton is grown along the eastern coast. The greatest crop reduction has occurred in Natal and Zululand, although the Northern Transvaal and Cape Province show a large percentage of decrease.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Cotton production, by regions, 1938-39 to 1941-42
(In terms of bales of 478 pounds)

REGION	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
Natal and Zululand	370	530	360	90
Pustenburg area (including Pretoria and Marico districts)	10	100	140	10
Northern Transvaal (including Waterberg, Pietersburg, and Zoutpansberg)	0	140	130	10
Eastern Transvaal (including Middelburg, Ludenburg, and Barberton)	230	680	770	530
Southern Transvaal (Pongola River area) :	-	-	a/	-
Cape Province	a/	210	50	30
Swaziland	10	60	100	40
Total	620	1,720	1,550	710

Compiled from Farming in South Africa, and Crops and Markets. a/ Less than 5 bales.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS . . .

Charles A. Burneister, in charge

UNITED KINGDOM GUARANTEES LIVESTOCK PRICES FOR FOUR YEARS

The Ministry of Agriculture of the United Kingdom recently announced guaranteed minimum prices for cattle and sheep for a 4-year period beginning July 1. The new prices for cattle average 2 shillings per 112 pounds liveweight (0.4 cent a pound) above scheduled prices now in effect.

In May 1943 a schedule of prices for various weights and grades of cattle, with differing dressing percentages, was published, with seasonal weekly adjustments for the period from June 28, 1943, to June 5, 1944. Prices for grade A home-produced steers and heifers, dressing 55 to 57 percent, for the period beginning June 5, 1944, ranged from \$13.69 to \$14.23 per 100 pounds, according to the schedule in effect when the new prices were announced. The new price schedule represents an increase of 0.4 cent a pound, live weight, over the old prices. Current prices for home-produced steers and heifers and for fat bulls and fat cows, as listed in the old schedule, together with equivalents in United States currency are shown in the following table.

UNITED KINGDOM: Fixed prices for slaughter cattle, per hundred pounds, live weight, for periods specified in 1944

DESCRIPTION	BRITISH CURRENCY:		UNITED STATES	
	PER		CURRENCY PER	
	HUNDREDWEIGHT		100 POUNDS <u>a/</u>	
	<i>Shillings</i>		<i>Dollars</i>	
	:	:	:	:
<u>HOME BRED STEERS AND HEIFERS</u>	:	:	:	:
<u>Period starting June 5</u>	:	:	:	:
Special - Dressing percentage 58 and over. . .	:	80.50	:	14.50
Grade A - Dressing percentage 55-57.	:	76.00 to 79.00	:	13.69 to 14.23
Grade B - Dressing percentage 52-54.	:	71.00 to 74.50	:	12.79 to 13.42
Grade C - Dressing percentage 50 and 51. . . .	:	59.00 to 62.00	:	10.63 to 11.17
FAT BULLS	:	:	:	:
<u>Period starting May 8</u>	:	:	:	:
Special - Dressing percentage 54-56 and over <u>b/</u> :	:	58.00 to 60.00	:	10.45 to 10.90
Grade A - Dressing percentage 55-57.	:	47.00 to 49.50	:	8.47 to 8.92
Grade B - Dressing percentage 52-54.	:	40.00 to 46.00	:	7.21 to 8.29
Grade C - Dressing percentage 50 and 51. . . .	:	34.00 to 37.00	:	6.12 to 6.66
FAT COWS	:	:	:	:
<u>Period starting May 8</u>	:	:	:	:
Special - Dressing percentage 54 and over <u>c/</u> :	:	58.50	:	10.54
Grade A - Dressing percentage 53-55 and over .	:	48.50 to 52.50	:	8.74 to 9.46
Grade B - Dressing percentage 50-52.	:	42.50 to 46.50	:	7.66 to 8.38
Grade C - Dressing percentage 48 and 49. . .	:	35.50 to 39.50	:	6.39 to 7.12
	:	:	:	:

The Farmer and Stock-Breeder, May 13, 1943, and April 11, 1944.

a/ Converted at the official rate of exchange. b/ Young bulls yielding first quality beef. c/ Young cows.

Minimum prices for sheep in the new schedule are to be increased 1-1/8d. (1.9 cents) a pound, dressed weight, over those in the old schedule. The price of 1st grade lambs in the old schedule for the period beginning May 29, 1944, was equivalent to 30.68 cents a pound carcass weight. The new schedule will increase this price by 1.9 cents. Some adjustments in the method of applying the increase to last year's schedule for the different grades are now being worked out and will be announced later. These adjustments are intended to provide a greater incentive for grade improvement.

UNITED KINGDOM: Fixed fat sheep prices per pound,
dressed carcass weight, beginning May 29, 1944

DESCRIPTION	BRITISH CURRENCY	UNITED STATES CURRENCY
	<i>Pence</i>	<i>a/ Cents</i>
<u>Lambs -</u>		
1st grade	18.25	30.68
2d grade.	16.50	27.74
Shearling	17.00	28.58
<u>Sheep -</u>		
Shorn	16.00	26.90
Unshorn	17.00	28.58
<u>Lightweight ewes -</u>		
Shorn	11.00	18.49
Unshorn	12.00	20.18
<u>Heavyweight ewes -</u>		
Shorn	10.00	16.81
unshorn	11.00	18.49
<u>Rams -</u>		
Shorn	9.00	15.13
Unshorn	10.00	16.81
<u>unthrifty lambs and over-fat sheep -</u>		
Shorn	10.00	16.81
Unshorn	11.00	18.49
<u>unthrifty sheep -</u>		
Shearling	10.00	16.81
Shorn	9.00	15.13
Unshorn	10.00	16.81

The Farmer and Stock-Breeder, May 18, 1943 and April 11, 1944.

a/ Converted at the official rate of exchange.

AUSTRALIA'S WOOL SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES SMALLER

Since the termination on June 30, 1942, of the strategic-wool storage agreement between the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom, wool shipments from Australia to the United States have run much below the high level of 1941-42. In the 1942-43 season (July 1-June 30) total wool exports were slightly in excess of 600 million pounds. Exports that season were about 17 percent below those of 1941-42, when they were about the same as the average for the five pre-war seasons, 1934-35 to 1939-39. Exports to the United States in 1942-43 (July-June) were 34 percent less than in 1941-42, when a strategic stock pile of wool was being built up in this country.

A still further reduction in exports has occurred in the current (1943-44) season, the total for the 9 months ended March 31 being 4 percent smaller than in the corresponding period of the 1942-43 season. Exports to the United States for the 9-month period were 10 percent smaller than a year earlier, but direct exports to the United Kingdom were approximately the same. Direct exports to the United Kingdom remain limited by the restricted shipping space available.

The Central Wool Committee of Australia recently expressed the hope that the shipments of United Kingdom stock-pile wool to the United States would continue so as to ease Australia's storage problems. Wool shipped to the United States for storage as United Kingdom stock-pile remains the property of the Government of the United Kingdom. Any withdrawal from the stock-pile by the United States Government is subject to the terms of an arrangement made between the two Governments.

The 1943-44 production of shorn and pulled wool in Australia is tentatively estimated at 1,125 million pounds, or approximately the same as in 1942-43. The official wool production estimates include, in addition to the wool shorn and pulled from skins in Australia, the quantities exported on skins. No estimate of the wool exported on skins during 1943-44 is available as yet, but such exports declined from an average of 56 million pounds in the 5 pre-war years to about 30 million pounds in 1941-42.

Recently released official figures show that wool production probably was at the wartime peak in 1941-42 when production, including wool exported on skins, reached 1,167 million pounds, compared with a pre-war average of 995 million pounds. There was a reduction of approximately 2 percent in 1942-43 and probably a further reduction in 1943-44. Drought conditions, which have developed throughout Australia's wool growing districts, have tended to reduce the quantity of the fall-shorn wool (March-April) and point to a reduction in the 1944-45 wool clip.

AUSTRALIA: Production of wool, greasy equivalent,
1934-35 to 1943-44

SEASON JULY 1 :	SHORN :	PULLED :	TOTAL SHORN :	EXPORTED :	TOTAL
TO JUNE 30 :	:	:	AND PULLED :	ON SKINS :	:
	<i>Million</i>	<i>Million</i>	<i>Million</i>	<i>Million</i>	<i>Million</i>
	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>
1934-35 . . . :	908.5	54.5	962.6	52.8	1,015.4
1935-36 . . . :	867.3	49.6	916.9	54.2	971.1
1936-37 . . . :	877.5	50.0	927.5	55.3	982.8
1937-38 . . . :	914.8	48.2	963.0	60.4	1,023.4
1938-39 . . . :	875.8	49.6	925.4	58.2	983.6
Average . . . :	888.7	50.4	939.1	56.2	995.3
1939-40 . . . :	1,020.0	61.9	1,081.9	45.8	1,127.7
1940-41 . . . :	1,026.5	90.0	1,116.5	25.3	1,141.8
1941-42 . . . :	1,049.5	88.1	1,137.6	29.6	1,167.2
1942-43 <u>a</u> / . . :	<u>b</u> /	<u>b</u> /	1,120.0	28.0	1,148.0
1943-44 <u>a</u> / . . :	<u>b</u> /	<u>b</u> /	1,125.0	<u>b</u> /	<u>b</u> /

Compiled from official sources. a/ Preliminary. b/ Not available.